

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended to incorporate the features of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit the amendments are supported by the specification, do not introduce new matter, and place the claims in condition for allowance. After entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-5, and 7-23 will be pending. Claims 15, 16 and 18 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as drawn to a non-elected invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated claims 2, 4-5, 7-12, and 19-23 would be allowable over the cited prior art references if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended to incorporate the features of claim 2. Applicants submit the amendment places the claims in condition for allowance.

Obviousness

Claims 1, 3, 13, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta (U.S. 5,558,957). Without acquiescing to the rejection and solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 19 and 20 to incorporate the features of claim 2. The Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action that the claims as amended would be allowable and that the prior art references do not teach the thin film material or the deposition technique of the amended claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claimed subject matter in a continuation application.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

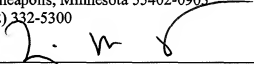
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 16 September 2008



Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960
BHB:EED:jrm

